

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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CIEP-01 SS-20 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 IGA-01 COME-00

CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 DRC-01 /062 W

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R 150700Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8956

DEPT OF TREASURY

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 6004

TREASURY FOR PARSKY

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: EA, SA, US

SUBJ: DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE PROPOSAL

SUMMARY: SAUDI COORDINATOR OF JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION FEELS DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE PROPOSAL IS TOO DRASTIC A SOLUTION FOR SPEEDING DECISIONS ON DEVELOPMENT OF THE KINGDOM. HE SUGGESTED MODIFICATION THAT WOULD PLACE SAUDI JOINT COMMISSION AS EXPEDITING OFFICE WITH INCREASED PRESENCE IN WASHINGTON.

AMBASSADOR AGREES WITH ANALYSIS AND SUGGESTS MORE FORMAL INSTITUTION BE DEFERRED UNTIL LATER DATE. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR HELD WIDERANGING DISCUSSIONS WITH SAUDI COORDINATOR OF JOINT COMMISSION DR. SULAIMAN SULAIM OCTOBER 13. DR. SULAIM SAID THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED NEW DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE PROPOSAL WITH MINISTER OF STATE ABA AL KHAIL AT A MEETING IN BEIRUT. IN VIEW OF LACK OF AMERICAN BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL AND HIS OWN PERSONAL FEELING THAT IT WAS TOO QUOTE DRASTIC UNQUOTE A SOLUTION FOR PROBLEM OF SPEEDING DECISIONS ON SAUDI
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DEVELOPMENT, HE HAD RECOMMEDED IN A 13-PAGE REPORT TO

ABA AL KHAIL THAT MINISTERIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE CONSIDER MODIFIED PRPOSAL THAT WOULD STRENGTHEN SAUDI PRESENCE IN THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON AND INCREASE THE STAFF OF THE COMMISSION IN RIYADH. THE EXPANDED PROFESSIONAL STAFF WOULD EXPEDITE MOVEMENT ON DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND INVESTIGATE POSSIBILITY OF MORE INSTITUTIONALIZED ACTION AGENCY IN THE FUTURE.

2. EMPHASIZING THAT THIS WAS STILL ONLY HIS PERSONAL VIEW, DR. SULAIM SAID THAT FORMAL U.S. PRPOSAL WOULD OF COURSE BE STUDIED BY MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE (HISHAM NAZER, ABA QURAYSHI AND ABA AL KHAIL).

3. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT LACK OF BUSINESS SUPPORT FOR PROPOSAL BY COMPANIES IN SAUDI ARABIA HAD CASUED EMBASSY TO COME TO SAME CONCLUSION. AT THE SAME TIME THERE WAS NO DOUBT A NEED FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT INVOLVEMENT IN CARRYING OUT DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTING CONSTRUCTION. HE NOTED THAT THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS WOULD BE INVOLVED AT LEAST ON THE MILITARY INFRASTRUCTURE SIDE OF DEVELOPMENT. COMMENT: MODIFICATION OF DEVELOPMENT ENTERPRISE PROPOSAL WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE RECOMMENDED BY SULAIM TO FULL PLANNING COMMITTEE. WE ARE SEEKING TO GET AS STRONG AN ACTION AGENCY AS POSSIBLE, HOPEFULLY WITH AN OFFICE IN THE U.S. AS INDEPENDENT AS POSSIBLE OF THE SAUDI EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON. FOLLOWING TELEGRAM DISCUSSES ROLE OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS IN THIS NEW AND STRENGTHENED JOINT COMMISSION.

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